US EOP to the Religious Intolerance resolution
Human Rights Council
June 23, 2010

The United States firmly supports the work of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion. This is an important mandate and we came to this session committed to renewing the mandate to support the Human Rights Council's ability to monitor and report on religious intolerance, curtailments of freedom of religion, and practices that protect freedom of religion. The right to freedom of religion, in both its private and public dimensions, is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. This right is the birthright of all people, regardless of their faith or lack thereof, and is essential for respecting human dignity. The freedom to profess, practice, and propagate one's faith, as well as the freedom to change or adopt a religion, must be respected by all societies and governments. It provides a cornerstone for every healthy society. It empowers faith-based service. It fosters tolerance and respect among different communities. And it allows nations that uphold it to become more stable, secure, and prosperous.